

Ethnic Identity in Transition (Cases of Armenia and Georgia): Theoretical Concepts and the Construction of Ethnic Identity in Secondary Schools

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on issues of ethnic identity/ethnicity construction and representation in transition countries, and in Georgia and Armenia in particular. The first four weeks of the course will provide an introduction to theoretical concepts related to identity and ethnicity with a special focus on the “modern” aspect of identity construction. This will prepare students to identify constructivist versus primordial or essentialist perspectives, as well as familiarize them with the cognitive perspective.

The second part of the course (three weeks) will concentrate on scholarly perspectives on national and ethnic identity in Armenia and Georgia, which will also include a part related to other post-Soviet cases. The readings will review concepts on Armenia and Georgia from three different perspectives: Soviet views on identity and ethnicity, views from the West, and local Armenian and Georgian perspectives. At the end of the second part, students will have one week for oral presentations and discussions on the relevant readings.

In the final part of the course (four weeks), we will discuss issues concerning constructing identities in transition, focusing on the Armenian and Georgian cases. Specifically, the students will read case studies, reports, articles, books and other publications describing the practices of constructing and representing ethnicity through secondary schools, as observed in transition societies of the post-Soviet period. The students will draw their own analyses about ethnic identity construction and representation practices in Armenia and Georgia based on the literature review and their own fieldwork projects in secondary schools.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your final grade will be based on the following:

1. Attendance and informed participation in weekly discussions (20%)
2. 7 memos (2 pages max) on course readings (total 35%, or 5% for each memo). Memos should either provide a critical review of one of the readings or compare two or more

readings/perspectives. Students should send the memos to the lecturer during the first 8 weeks, one per week, and then present them during the midterm oral presentation and discussion class.

3. Informed participation in the midterm oral presentation of the memos and discussion (15%)
4. One 10-15 page field work report, which will include findings from interviews, focus group observation and text-book reviews conducted in one school (30%)
 - 4.1 Outline (5%): An outline needs to be drafted before Week 11 of the class. The lecturer will have all the comments and recommendations ready for each student before fieldwork begins. Based on the outline and relevant data collection tools, students have to conduct field work in a secondary school of their choice.
 - 4.2 Report (25%)

COURSE READINGS AND SCHEDULE

Part 1 Ethnicity, identity, ethno-nationalism: theoretical concepts and perspectives

Week 1: History of the Identity concept and terminology

1. Weber, Max. 1978. 'Ethnic Groups' in *Economy and Society: An Outline of an Interpretive Sociology*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp.385-399
2. Barth, Fredrik, ed. 1998. 'Introduction' in *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries*, Chicago, IL: Waveland Press, pp. 5-38.
3. Brubaker, Rogers and Frederick Cooper. 2000. "Beyond Identity." *Theory and Society* 12(1): 1-47.
4. Cashmore, Ellis. 1996. *The Dictionary of Race and Ethnic Relations*. London and New York.
5. Cornell, Stephen and Douglas Hartmann. 1998. Mapping the Terrain: Definitions' in *Ethnicity and Race. Making Identities in a Changing World*. Sage, pp. 15-37
6. Horowitz, Donald. 1975. "Ethnic identity," in N.Glazer and D. P.Moynihan (eds), *Ethnicity: Theory and Experience*, Cambridge,MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 111-40
7. Geertz, Clifford, *The Interpretation of Cultures*, New York, NY: Basic Books, 1973, Chapter 10, "The Integrative Revolution: Primordial Sentiments and Civil Politics in the New States," pp. 255-310.

8. Connor, Walker. 1984. "Chapter Four: Terminological Chaos" ("A Nation is a Nation, Is a State, Is an ethnic Group, Is a...")' in *Ethnonationalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 89-118

Week 2: Ethnicity and Identity: views and perspectives (part 1)

1. Cornell, Stephen and Douglas Hartmann. 1998. "Fixed or Fluid? Alternative Views of Ethnicity and Race" in *Ethnicity and Race. Making Identities in a Changing World*. Sage, pp. 39-67
2. Shills, E. 1957 "Primordial, personal, sacred, and civil ties." *British Journal of Sociology*, vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 130-45
3. F. J. Stack (ed.), *The Primordial Challenge: Ethnicity in the Contemporary World*, New York: Greenwood Press, pp. 1-11
4. Smith, Anthony D. *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1986, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-68.

Week 3: Ethnicity and Identity: views and perspectives (part 2)

1. Anderson, Benedict, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*, London: Verso, 1983, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-46, skim the rest.
2. Gellner, Ernest, *Nations and Nationalism*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1983.
3. Hobsbawm, Eric and Ranger, Terence, eds., *The Invention of Tradition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983, Chapter 1, Introduction by Hobsbawm, pp. 1-14
4. Brubaker, Rogers Mara Loveman, and Peter Stamatov. 2004. "Ethnicity as Cognition." *Theory and Society* 33(1): 31-64.
5. Brubaker, Rogers. 2006. *Ethnicity without Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
6. Nagel, Joane. 1994. "Constructing Ethnicity: Creating and Recreating Ethnic Identity and Culture." *Social Problems* 41(1): 152-176.

Week 4: Ethnonationalism

1. Connor, Walker. 1984. 'Part one: Ethnonationalism and Scholars' in *Ethnonationalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-89
2. Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. 1993. *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Anthropological Perspectives*. London: Pluto Press
3. Smith, Anthony. 1995. National Identities: Modern and Medieval? in *Concepts of National Identity in the Middle Ages*, ed. Simon Forde, Lesley Johnson and Alan V. Murray
4. Hobsbawm, E. J., *Nations and Nationalism since 1780*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990, Introduction and Chapter 1, "The Nation as Novelty: From Revolution to Liberalism," pp. 14-45
5. Fenton, Steve and Stephen May (eds.). 2002. *Ethnonational Identities*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
6. Verdery, Katherine. 1994. "Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the State: Ethnic Groups and Boundaries Past and Present," in *The Anthropology of Ethnicity: Beyond 'Ethnic Groups and Boundaries'*, ed. Hans Vermeulen and Cora Govers. Amsterdam: Het Spinhuis

Part 2: Ethnicity, identity and nationalism: Post Soviet societies, Armenia and Georgia

Week 5: Post Soviet societies

1. Tokluoglu, Ceylan. 2005. "Definitions of National Identity, Nationalism and Ethnicity in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan in the 1990s." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 28(4):722-758.
2. Verdery, Katherine. 1993. "Nationalism and National Sentiment in Post-socialist Romania." *Slavic Review* 52:179-203.
3. Slezkine, Yuri. 1994. "The USSR as a Communal Apartment, or How a Socialist State Promoted Ethnic Particularism." *Slavic Review* 53(2): 414-452
4. Elebayeva, Ainura, Nurbek Omuraliev and Rafis Abazov. 2000. "The Shifting Identities and Loyalties in Kyrgyzstan: The Evidence from the Field." *Nationalities Papers* 28(2): 343-349
5. Comaroff, John. 1991. "Humanity, Ethnicity, Nationality: Conceptual and Comparative Perspectives on the USSR." *Theory and Society* 20:661-87.

6. Bonnell, Victoria (ed.). 1996. *Identities in Transition: Eastern Europe and Russia after the Collapse of Communism*. Berkeley: Center for Slavic and East European Studies, University of California at Berkeley.
7. Шнирельман, Виктор. 2003. 'Этноцентризм и распад государства' в *Войны Памяти. Мифы, идентичность и политика в Закавказье*. Москва. Стр. 504-520

Week 6: Georgia

1. Wheatley, Jonathan. 2005. *Georgia from National Awakening to Rose Revolution: Delayed Transition in the Former Soviet Union*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate.
2. Suny, Roland. 1994. 'Revolutionary and Soviet Georgia' in *The Making of the Georgian Nation*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 185-315
3. Pelkmans, Mathijs. 2006. 'Introduction: temporal Divides and Muddled Space along the Former iron curtain' in *Defending the border: Identity, Religion, and Modernity in the Republic of Georgia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-17
4. Nodia, Ghia. 2001. "Ten Years after the Soviet Breakup: The Impact of Nationalism." *Journal of Democracy* 12 (4): 27-34.
5. Chkhartishvili, Mariam. 2009. "On Georgian Identity and Culture." Nine Presentations by Professor Mariam Chkhartishvili. Universal Publishing House. Tbilisi

Week 7: Armenia

1. Abrahamian, Levon. 2006. *Armenian Identity in a Changing World*. Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers.
2. Petrosyan, Hamlet. 2001. "Symbols of Armenian Identity" in Abrahamian, Levon, Sweezy, Nancy, and Sweezy, Sam. (eds). *Armenian Folk Arts, Culture, and Identity*. Indiana University Press, pp 25-73
3. Abrahamian, Levon, Sweezy, Nancy, and Sweezy, Sam. (eds). 2001. "Afterwards" in *Armenian Folk Arts, Culture, and Identity*. Indiana University Press, pp 261-273
4. Herzig, Edmund and Marina Kurkchyan (eds.). 2005. 'Introduction: Armenia and Armenians' in *The Armenians Past and Present in the Making of National Identity*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 1-23

5. Kurkchian, Marina. 2005. "Society in Transition" in Herzig, Edmund and Marina Kurkchian (eds.). *The Armenians Past and Present in the Making of National Identity*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 211-228
6. Panossyan, Razmik. 2005. "Homeland-Diaspora Relations and Identity Differences" in Herzig, Edmund and Marina Kurkchian (eds.). *The Armenians Past and Present in the Making of National Identity*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 229-244
7. Panossian, Razmik. 2007. "Differing Identities: Soviet Armenians, Diaspora Armenians, 1921-1987", "Strengthening National Identity, Soviet Style, 1921-1987" in *The Armenians: From Kings and Priests to Merchants and Commissars*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 262-379
8. Platz, Stephanie. 2000. "The Shape of National Time: Daily Life, History, and Identity During Armenia's Transition to Independence, 1991-1994," in Berdahl, Daphne, Matti Bunzl and Martha Lampland (eds.) *Altering States: Ethnographies of Transition in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
9. Шнирельман, Виктор. 2003. "Глава 1: Мифы и Идентичность", "Глава 2: Основные вехи истории армян" в *Войны Памяти. Мифы, идентичность и политика в Закавказье*. Москва. Стр. 33-52
10. Suny, Ronald G. 1993. *Looking Toward Ararat: Armenia in Modern History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Week 8: Oral presentations and discussion

Part 3: Constructing Identities through Secondary Education (Post Soviet societies, Armenia and Georgia)

Week 9: Post-Soviet societies

1. Расизм в языке образования, под ред. В. Воронкова, О. Карпенко, А. Осипова.- СПб.: Алетейя, 2008
2. Wertsch, James V. 2002. *Voices of Collective Remembering*. New York: Cambridge University Press

3. Shissler, Hannah and Yasemin Soysal (eds.). 2005. *Nations, Europe and the World: Textbooks and Curricula in Transition*. New York: Berghahn Books
4. Heyneman, S.P. 1998. "The Transition from Party/State to Open Democracy: The Role of Education." *International Journal of Educational Development* 18(1): 21-40.
5. Ferro, Marc. 1984. *The Use and Abuse of History or How the Past is Taught*. New York: Routledge.
6. Fitzgerald, Frances. 1979. *America Revised: History Schoolbooks in the Twentieth Century*. Boston: Vintage.
7. Lisovskaya, Elena and Vyacheslav Karpov. 1999. "New Ideologies in Postcommunist Russian Textbooks." *Comparative Education Review* 43(4): 522-543.

Week 10: Armenia and Georgia

1. Mkrtchyan, Arthur. 2007. "Armenian Statehood and the Problems of European Integration as Reflected in School Education." in Darieva, Tsypylma and Wolfgang Kaschuba (eds.). 2007. *Representations on the Margins of Europe: Politics and Identities in the Baltic and South Caucasian States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
2. Rumyantsev, Sergey. 2008. "Ethnic Territories" Presentation Practices in Historical Textbooks in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan and Georgia, *Internationale Schulbuchforschung* 30 (2008) S. 811–824, Hannover · Verlag Hahnsche Buchhandlung · ISSN 0172-8237
3. Шнирельман, Виктор. 2003. "Глава 5: Происхождение армянского народа и армянская школа" в *Войны Памяти. Мифы, идентичность и политика в Закавказье*. Москва. Стр. 73-77
4. А. Искандерян, Б. Арутюнян, Армения: «карабахизация» национальной истории, *Национальные истории в советском и постсоветских государствах*, под ред. К. Аймермахера, Г. Бордюгова, Москва, «АИРО-XX», 1999, стр. 147-160.
5. Ю. Анчабадзе, *Национальная история в Грузии: мифы, идеология, наука*, *Национальные истории в советском и постсоветских государствах*, под ред. К. Аймермахера, Г. Бордюгова, Москва, «АИРО-XX», 1999, стр. 161-178.

6. Zolyan, Mikael, Zakaryan, Tigran. 2008. "Armenia: the Images of "Self" and "Other" in Textbooks on History of Armenia" in Luboš Veselý (ed.) *Contemporary History Textbooks in the South Caucasus*, Prague, pp. 11-33
7. Giginishvili, Levan. 2007. "Post- reform history textbooks in Georgia: changing patterns and the issue of minorities in Georgian history" in *History Teaching in Georgia: Representation of Minorities in Georgian History Textbooks*, CIMERA, Geneva, pp 7-24
8. Chikovani, Nino, Kakitelashvili, Ketevan. 2008. "Representation of "others" in the South Caucasus secondary school history textbooks" in , Luboš Veselý (ed.) *Contemporary History Textbooks in the South Caucasus*, Prague, pp. 58-83
9. Gundare, Ieva. 2007. "The Teaching of History in Georgia with special focus on the Armenian and Azeri" in *History Teaching in Georgia: Representation of Minorities in Georgian History Textbooks*, CIMERA, Geneva, pp. 23-64.

Week 11 and 12: Field Work in Schools and Results Presentations